

Education Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 11 December 2018

Strategic Management of School Places

Item number	7.12
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitment	

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the P1 and S1 admissions August 2018 and includes data relating to the number of out of catchment requests; the number of appeals lodged, the number of cases granted and individual cases won on appeal.

Strategic Management of School Places

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the content of the report.
 - 1.1.2 Request an Admissions and Appeals update report in December 2019.

2. Background

- 2.1 As part of the annual P1 and S1 intake process a working group of senior officers meet to address the demand for places across the city and to agree proposed class organisations for primary schools in January each year.
- 2.2 In February the Pupil and Student Support Committee meet to review selected placing requests and to decide the priority order for placement on the waiting list.
- 2.3 Primary Head Teachers organise a special Parent Council meeting in February to share classroom organisation and local ward members are encouraged to attend.
- 2.4 Schools are aware that class organisations can change sometimes on a daily basis, as a result of parents making late registrations often requiring changes to class organisations.
- 2.5 Admissions for P1 and S1 in August are managed by the placements team. Headteachers are then responsible for all admissions after the start of term in August.
- 2.6 This year Primary schools across the city held their Open Day in October to promote local schools for local children.

3. Main report

Management of School Places

- 3.1 In the current financial climate achieving efficiencies in terms of the number of classes formed, staff allocated and accommodation remains critical. We endeavour to respect parental choice wherever it can be achieved without additional cost.

- 3.2 The admissions and appeals process is a routine high-profile area for Communities and Families. It is vital that this process operates as efficiently and effectively to ensure a consistent, transparent, and fair application of procedures. Head Teachers are involved throughout the process
- 3.3 As in previous years, the allocation of a school place for baptised Roman Catholic (RC) pupils at certain RC schools was a priority. Thereafter the allocation of places was based on:
- Catchment non-baptised - prioritised by sibling then distance
 - Exceptional cases
 - Non-catchment -prioritised by sibling then distance
- 3.4 The strategic growth plan for Gaelic Medium Education was approved by the Education, Children Families Committee in October 2018. While the demand for places in P1 at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce were accommodated this session 2017/18 in future years additional capacity will be required to be created. This could be achieved through internal reconfiguration.
- 3.5 Gaelic Medium Education secondary is provided at James Gillespie’s High School. A project to deliver temporary accommodation on the main school site for August 2019 is being progressed.

Reserved Places

- 3.6 We believe that it is important for children and young people to be able to attend their local catchment school. The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 allows the Education Authority to reserve places in schools for catchment children that move into the catchment area.
- 3.7 For pupils moving into a school catchment in primary one place per class is reserved and two places reserved for each team teaching class where possible.
- 3.8 One place per 60 pupils is reserved for incoming catchment pupils to S1 after the start of the session where it was possible to do so.

Admissions and appeals processes

- 3.9 The number of final applications for out with catchment places is as follows:

Primary 1		Secondary 1	
2018	TBC	2018	TBC
2017	894	2017	699
2016	962	2016	723
2015	995	2015	787
2014	1141	2014	777

- 3.10 The number of appeals and the outcomes for the past 4 years is detailed below:

Primary

Appeals	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number Lodged	237	268	283	254
Placed prior to hearing/ withdrawn	57	114	111	120
Heard by Appeal Committee	180	154	172	130
Refused	98	107	114	69
Granted	81	47	58	61

Secondary

Appeals	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number Lodged	53	74	109	88
Placed prior to hearing / withdrawn	2	24	25	11
Heard by Appeal Committee	51	50	84	77
Refused	41	43	68	48
Granted	10	7	16	29

- 3.11 It is estimated that the overall primary school roll will continue to grow while the secondary school roll is projected to rise sharply. This will result in accommodation issues at a number of schools. and indicate how these will be addressed.
- 3.12 While there are solutions to the accommodation concerns any changes to enrolment procedures would need to be considered next year at the earliest for implementation session 2020/21.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 There is a consistent and equitable approach to allocating places across the school estate.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 All work identified in this area is delivered within existing budgets.

6. Risk, policy, compliance, and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no risks, policy compliance or governance issues.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 There are no negative equality or human rights impacts arising from this report.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 There are no sustainable issues.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 This will be shared through the head teacher executive and parents will be engaged through locality and Consultative Committee with Parents arrangements.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/TrendPupilNumbers>

10.2 <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PupilProjectionsDataset/PupilProjections2014>

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11. Appendices

None.